

Attorney Docket No. MIO 0020 VA (97-0198.02)
Serial No. - 09/510,828

REMARKS

Claims 29-31, 36-40, 44-47, 50, 51, 54-56, 63-65, 68, 69, and 73-88 are pending in the present application. Claims 29-31, 36-40 and 73 are cancelled herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 29-31 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The above rejected claims have been canceled herein. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 29, 30, 31, 37-39 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,060,894 issued May 09, 2000 to Hembree et al. (hereinafter "Hembree '894"). The above rejected claims have been canceled herein. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 29 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Haseyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,299,320) in view of Barker (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,613) and Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,014,161). The above rejected claims have been canceled herein. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter.

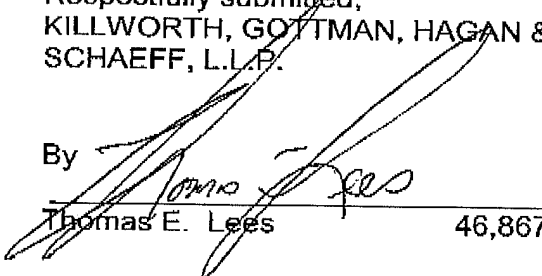
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CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that the above claims represent allowable subject matter. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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